3:Stone E-5 (1945) 1949
SA19 Talamanca SA19
Boruca

SOCIAL, POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION

savannas, and the Indians complain bitterly because many of these fields are being lost to nature, who is reclaiming her own. 311

Property and Inheritance. The oldest male member of the family distributes the property at the death of an individual. If the male members are too young, then the oldest female member does the dividing. Concerning the property, we may judge the economy of the tribe as a whole, more or less clearly from the situation in Boruca, the largest single community of these people. 428

Cattle is a rich man's privilege in Boruca. Amongst the three hundred and twenty-four inhabitants, there are only one hundred cows. These are owned by sixteen individuals, no man having more than six. There are forty-seven houses in the town, however, and there is an ox for the majority of the households, at least one or more pigs, and numerous chickens. In addition to this, there are four bulls, each one with a separate owner, and twenty horses divided amongst six people. The pigs are raised to sell to the *ladinos* and to eat. The cows are seldom killed, but are used as a medium of wealth, to sell, or to pass on as an inheritance. The cows are seldom milked. 231 [556] [439] [556 234]

Social Organization. A few vestiges of an older communal relationship are seen in the former lack of individual farms, and today, in the *juntas* or "get-togethers" of the Indians. When a new house is to be built, the man who wants to erect it calls upon his friends for help, after he has collected the necessary material. They all join together, and the construction is ready in a short space of time, the owner giving chicha, and often food to the helpers. It is interesting to note also that on one day a year, designated now by the police chief, but formerly by the council, the men gather to cut the grass and to "clean" the village of Boruca. They go systematically from house to house, and cut all the weeds in sight. This helps to maintain Boruca as a cleared, sanitary spot. 476 [342] [364]

Political Organization. Most traces of political organization have disappeared. The outstanding authority is the police agent, who is an Indian, but is appointed by the Government of Costa Rica. He is, however, de- 625 625 623

6:Stone E-5 (1956-1959)1962
[P. 13(B)] SA19 Talamanca SA19
Bribri
Cabecar

231 better-suited for raising fowl, but is domesticated in Talamanca, where its principal diet consists of roaches. Ducks also are not common, and there is no native word for them nor for turkey. When found, they are kept inside the large house in a small compartment.

• [234] Cattle are owned by only a few on the Coen
[262] River and lower Talamanca. On both sides of
[954] the range they are kept more as a bank account
than for food. Milk is not used. In Ujarrás,
Salitre, and Cabagra oxen are used for riding
[492] or carrying burdens on their backs (fig. 2, *d*).[1/a]
794 In Ujarrás, wild cattle, most of which belong
231 to the church or, better said, to St. Vincent,
422 the patron of the community, roam the
savannas. This is a vestige of the ancient tithe
and the animals are used only when the priest
pays his yearly visit. On this occasion, the
required number of steers for a communal
[411] feast are shot with bow and arrow. The cattle
in Ujarrás that do not belong to the church
are the property of three inhabitants who sell
them when necessity demands. Chickens,
231 swine, and steers are eaten on special occasions
[262] such as "juntas" (*see* Reunions) and death
feasts (*see* Death and Burial).

There are no horses in Chirripó or upper Talamanca, and only one or two in the Sixaola Valley. In 1956, there were two horses at Salitre, one at Cabagra, two at Ujarrás, and two at China Kichá.

262 **Wild Foods.** The diet of the Bribri and the Cabécares is supplemented by many noncultivated foods. In the list below, we cite only those which we were able to have identified by their Latin names.[71]

262 The fruit of *Renealmia exaltata* (Aubl.)
137 Griseb is generally fried in lard. The red
flower of *Erythrina costaricensis* Micheli, the
252 leaves and the tender part of the vine *Cyclanthera Naudiniana* Cogn., the sprouts of the female palm *Chamaedorea* sp., the leaves and tender shoots of *Phytolacca rivinoides* Kunth & Bouche, and a juvenile fern are boiled. The grainlike fruit of *Urera baccifera* (L.) Gaud is used as a substitute for rice. The wild papaya

parres Plátanos y yucas. . . ." There is no mention of maize at all.

[71] Stone, 1956.

[128] [71] Dr. Paul J. Shanks helped to gather and to classify these foods.

1/a [see category 116 - END PLATE 1 - ANALYST]